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The Lives of Cornelius Nepos. By THOMAS B. LINDSAY. American Book Co.

IF the signs at present observable in the field of first Latin reading are indicative of anything, they point to the partial abandonment of Cæsar as the first author to be read. Teachers have long felt that Cæsar, writing in a style admirably adapted to his purpose but presenting extraordinary difficulties to the beginner in Latin, belongs to a later period of study. Aside from the difficulty of understanding Cæsar, the young pupil finds Orgetorix and Ariovistus uninteresting, as too indirectly connected with the civilized world to appeal to his narrow historical imagination; nor does Cæsar's masterly stratagem rouse in him the enthusiasm that a well told account of the exploits of a modern general would unfailingly excite.

What has kept Cæsar in his anomalous position as first Latin author put into the hands of students is, probably, the unquestioned purity of his style. The abundant and convenient editions that have resulted from his general adoption in schools make the change to another author, or to selections from Cæsar and other authors, somewhat slow, even if teachers of second year Latin are agreed that the change is advisable. The change, also, involves the question, What shall be substituted if we give up Cæsar?

Of late certain efforts have been made to gather into one volume selections from the easier Latin authors, Eutropius, Aulus, Gellius and others, and these have met with an encouraging reception from teachers. Lhomond's simplification of the historians called *Viri Romæ* has been reëdited. Lastly, the fragment of Nepos's works remaining to us has put forth its claim as suitable material for beginners—a claim, indeed, already recognized by several colleges through requirements for admission.

Teuffel says of Nepos' *De Viris Illustribus* that "the parts we possess of it, the work *De Excellentibus Ducibus Exterarum Gentium* and the biographies of Atticus (being an extract from his work *De Historicis Latinis*) show neither historical criticism nor perfection of style, but in the absence of better sources are often valuable and deserve praise for their lucidity of arrangement and an unpretentious tone."

While it is undoubtedly true that Nepos is by no means the peer of Cæsar in style, his Latin is unmistakably that of the classic period

of Roman literature and is sufficiently good for the beginner. That he sadly confuses Miltiades, the conqueror of the Persians at Marathon, with Miltiades, the colonist, does not detract from the interest excited by his enthusiastic *Life of Miltiades*. The perennial interest we all feel in anecdote makes his often trivial tales an excellent incentive to the young reader to wrest the meaning from the text. The teacher who has driven pupils through Cæsar can alone adequately appreciate the value of more inviting text matter.

The edition of Nepos edited by Professor Lindsay puts this author into the class room in the most practical shape. A concise introduction gives all that we know of Nepos and of his writings, with a short criticism upon his style and the historical value of his work. The well-known German authorities are named and Lupus and Grote are suggested for reference. Under the title, "Hints for Reading," Professor Lindsay preaches the true doctrine of how to learn to read and understand; to the machine teacher of Latin (alas for his frequency), unless he immediately mends his way, this section will be a reproach as often as he uses the volume. "Special exercises" have the merit of brevity. They evidently are intended merely as a guide to systematize grammar study. An excellent map of the Roman Empire, with enlargements of Greece and the Chersonnesus, introduces us to the text. This text leaves nothing to be desired so far as the type work is concerned. But why must the confusing small figures hash up the text before the eyes of the pupil at the very stage of his progress when the habit of seizing the sentence as a whole must, if ever, be formed? A little ingenuity would save the text from this nuisance without sacrificing clearness of grammatical reference. In future editions of this really excellent text-book, it is to be hoped that this blemish will be removed. The running argument, on the contrary, aids the pupil in grasping the meaning of the paragraphs. Marginal dates, also, are useful.

Professor Lindsay's notes are remarkably clear, well directed and easy of reference. The only objection to them is the amount of comparative philology they contain. A safe rule for notes in editions for beginners is not to put anything into them that will puzzle and call away the attention from the actually needed help. A special set of notes for the teacher would add little to the bulk of the book and would remove temptation. The same criticism applies to the otherwise model vocabulary. To put after *muntius*, "*cf. novus*" is bad

vocabulary work but a good suggestion to the teacher. The pupil can hardly supply the obsolete *novère* which leads through a supposed *noventius* to the work *nuntius*.

According to the fancy of the day, the hidden quantities, as well as the obvious quantities, are marked throughout. Professor Lindsay follows Marx in writing *Cōgnosco* and *āgnosco*, although there is no support for this quantity in words in which the *gn* is not part of a termination, but results from assimilation of a preposition with a short vowel.

On the whole Lindsay's *Nepos* is a singularly good text-book. If *Nepos* is not to hold his own in the favor of teachers of Latin, it will not be because there is not at least one edition of his works that may be put into the hands of pupils with perfect confidence in its scholarship and its wise and adequate assistance to the student.

WALNUT HILLS HIGH SCHOOL,
Cincinnati, O.

J. REMSEN BISHOP

Select Orationes of Cicero. GREENOUGH and KITTREDGE. Ginn & Co.

GREENOUGH and Kittredge's *New Cicero* is an attractive book. Printer and binder together have succeeded in producing a very creditable piece of work. An especially commendable feature is its wealth of illustration. Here the editors have shown rare good sense by inserting restorations as well as ruins, thus assisting the imagination to form an approximately correct idea of the Forum, and of the temple of Jupiter—an utter impossibility for the average mind if the existing ruins only are shown. On the other hand, it would have been wise to have omitted several of the portraits of distinguished Romans. For instance, on page 77 the great Lucullus, in a bust of admittedly uncertain identification, has every appearance of having eaten too many fried oysters for his comfort. And it would require a powerful imagination to discover any traces of the magnificent strength and imperious will that characterized the conqueror of Hannibal in the weak and melancholy face labeled Scipio Africanus on page 152. Several other coin portraits are nothing but caricatures, and do not deserve a place in a book containing such admirable pictures as those of Hortensius, Cæsar, and Octavianus.

The *Introduction* leaves very little to be desired. The life of Cicero is given in detail and is extremely interesting. Special emphasis is